

April 16, 2009

Meeting held at the Lighthouse for the Blind

**Question:** Why have you chosen to live in this neighborhood?

- proximity to work
- accessible public transportation
- my job is here

### **Housing**

- need more single-family housing that is affordable
- need to preserve single family homes from the property value and safety impacts of apartments
- choice of where to live is influenced by fast, reliable, prompt response of emergency services
- like a mix of affordable housing, townhomes, apartments, etc.
- affordable we define as housing for families ranging from low/working class to lower-middle class, workforce housing, affordable to service workers

### **Sense of Place (now)**

- area around the station is not welcoming
- feels unsafe after dark
- high school student can be cause of concern

### **Sense of Place (in future we would like)**

- full-service supermarket
- satisfied with nearby QFC
- info booth/kiosk at station, staffed to answer questions
- audible pedestrian signals, also with vibrating device for deaf persons
- US mail drop boxes
- sidewalks – smooth, grade-separated (curb), wide, clear, free of obstructions, land-side edge of sidewalk should be well-defined
- good street drainage (puddles in street impact pedestrians)
- street trees are beautiful, but leaves need swept up because wet leaves are slippery for pedestrians
- slip hazards for pedestrians – gratings & utility covers – use textured rubber on covers
- need street lighting
- different surface for crosswalks – detectable with a cane but OK for wheelchairs
- recreation center, arcade – to give kids something to do
- movie theater with audio descriptions
- smaller scale mall
- day care
- books on tape bookstore
- dry cleaners and Laundromat

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- PacMed clinic – serving low & moderate income
- gym for exercise/YMCA
- dog park for the many guide dogs in the area
- vets office
- community college
- store with blind-friendly products
- community resource center/mini city hall
- police station
- family-oriented restaurant such as Denny's
- pea patch

### Transportation

- currently a dangerous pedestrian crossing at 25/Massachussets – cars speed on the hill, maybe need speed bumps, need signage saying there are deaf/blind in the area
- need pedestrian overcrossing on Rainier at Walker
- need well-maintained sidewalks
- buses should announce the route number at each stop (for benefit of those waiting to board)
- need a shuttle bus from Lighthouse/Red Cross to light rail station – there is a Metro bus sitting at Center Park apts. all day
- currently a problem with semis blocking sidewalks at Pepsi bottling
- currently huge puddles on 25<sup>th</sup> Ave. S sidewalk from Walker to McClellan
- problems with bushes/trees encroaching on sidewalks
- need yellow truncated dome tile as a demarcation of curb/corner/ramp on all sidewalks (should retrofit, not wait for new construction)
- problem with cars parked blocking sidewalks and crosswalks
- paint the curb edge a bright color (visual indication of curb edge)
- currently use public transportation, primarily ACCESS bus, also walk, use bus, cabs, sometimes given rides by others
- will ride light rail, but need shuttle to/from station, this would decrease need for ACCESS rides
- sidewalks to light rail station are in very poor condition

### Parks

- want a multi-use trail, with restrooms, paved
- OK with security cameras in parks
- fountains – help as audible cues for orientation
- safety is a concern
- need benches for resting & enjoying sunshine
- meditation garden would be good
- linked trails – need audible signals, link Lighthouse to Greenway, need information/signage

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- on trails
- need lighting in parks
- would like some urban pocket-parks with benches

**Sense of Place**

- Make the station area a disability-friendly locale
- accessible
- tactile sculptures
- fountain
- paths for the blind
- landscaping for all the senses
- different surfaces, textures, high-contrast
- would provide opportunity for community to interact (abled and disabled), provides a "teachable moment"
- hold integrated sports events (abled and disabled)
- disabled could participate in building/laying cornerstone
- Disability Learning Center – where people could experience challenges faced by disabled
- Universal Design principles

The idea of creating a unique identity for the McClellan light rail station area by making it very accessible/disability friendly was very strongly supported by the entire group. It generated quite a bit of discussion!